

# West Seattle Transportation Coalition

*Move the People.*



April 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

*Re: WSTC supports FASTLANE Grant for S. Lander St. Grade Separation and Railroad Safety Project*

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The **West Seattle Transportation Coalition** (WSTC) is a peninsula-wide organization working to address transportation and commuting challenges for more than 95,000 people living and working in the 10 square mile area between the Duwamish River and Puget Sound. The West Seattle Bridge Transportation Corridor (WSBTC) is the West Seattle peninsula's major ingress-egress route, and as the city's busiest traffic artery, it carries more than 107,000 vehicles a day. Fluid traffic movement between the WSBTC and downtown through the south of downtown (SODO) area is crucial for peninsula freight, public transportation and commuter vehicles.

As Seattle has grown in the past decade, traffic congestion has dramatically increased in SODO, site of the S. Landers St. rail crossing. Adding to the challenges are the 100 trains a day moving through at-grade railroad crossings, that stop traffic for nearly five hours a day, on the vital S. Lander St. and other east-west vehicular corridors. This has led to dramatic increases in vehicle trip times, and air and water pollution, and severe impacts on public and private sector productivity.

WSTC therefore supports funding mechanisms such as the FASTLANE Grant, to help finance construction of the South Lander Street Grade Separation and Railroad Safety Project (S. Lander St. Overpass). WSTC has long advocated for building this ramp between 1st and 4th Avenues, to reduce rail-related traffic congestion, and improve east-west pedestrian, bicycle, public transport, freight and other vehicle movement, and positively impact the lives of tens of thousands of people a year. WSTC looks forward to the contribution this funding source will make toward helping improve mobility for all who pass through the SODO area.

In Community,

Amanda Kay Helmick and Thomas Linde, Co-Chairs  
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Cc: Senator Maria Cantwell  
Senator Patty Murray  
Governor Jay Inslee  
Congressman Jim McDermott  
Mayor Ed Murray